

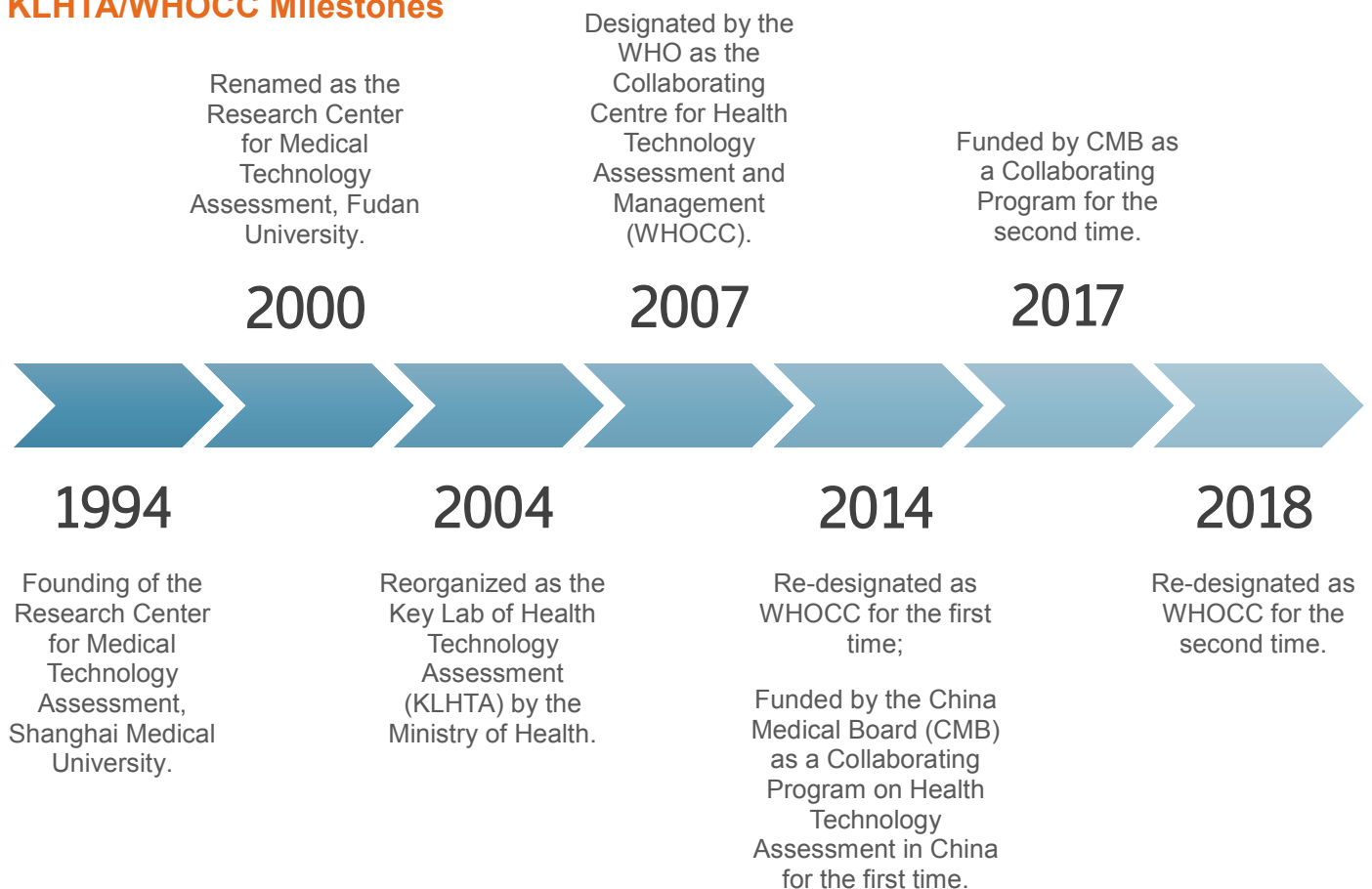
KLHTA RE-DESIGNATED AS WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific has re-designated the Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment (KLHTA), National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Fudan University) as a Collaborating Centre for Health Technology Assessment and Management (WHOCC).

KLHTA/WHOCC, headed by Dr. Yingyao Chen, will support WHO to strengthen the regional network for improving access to medicines and other health technologies, focusing on the area of health technology assessment (HTA) and priority setting; develop and strengthen capacity for HTA at the national and/or regional level, particularly for developing countries in the Region; and generate and disseminate evidence, knowledge, and good practices around prioritization and/or selection of medicines and health technologies.

KLHTA’s predecessor, the Medical Technology Assessment Research Center affiliated to Shanghai Medical University, was established in 1994 as China’s first HTA agency. KLHTA is devoted to scientific research, education and training, consultation, exchanges, and collaboration in the field of HTA. The WHO Western Pacific Region first designated KLHTA as a WHO Collaborating Centre in 2007 and re-designated twice thereafter.

KLHTA/WHOCC Milestones



“HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT” LAUNCHED ON CHINESE UNIVERSITY MOOC PLATFORM

KLHTA/WHOCC launched “[Health Technology Assessment](#)” on China’s largest Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, Chinese University MOOC, in May 2017. Dr. Yingyao Chen, Director of KLHTA/WHOCC, spearheaded the production of the course which was the first one on HTA in China.



Since the “Health Technology Assessment” online course was launched, 3,393 people have registered and participated.

As health technologies develop rapidly, proper use of health technologies becomes increasingly important. How to solve the conflict between health technologies’ benefits and risks? How to solve the perplexities of choosing innovative technologies and the appropriate technologies? How to balance the safety, effectiveness, economic and social implications of health technologies? HTA is an important tool and method for management and clinical decision-making.

HTA is a comprehensive policy research that investigates short- and long-term social impacts of health technology. HTA studies pharmaceuticals, devices, and medical and surgical procedures that are used in healthcare, and related supporting systems, e.g., health facilities, information and management systems, etc. Assessment covers technological features, safety, effectiveness, economy, and ethical and social implications. Internationally, HTA has been applied extensively to new health technologies’ market approval, price



The “Health Technology Assessment” online course has nine modules that cover the essential elements of HTA and is taught by eight faculty members at KLHTA/WHOCC and Fudan University.

determination of health technology services, coverage design of health insurance, appropriate health resource allocation, and development of clinical guidelines, etc.

This online course on HTA covers nine modules: health technology and management; definition of HTA; information retrieval; safety and effectiveness evaluation; economic evaluation; ethical evaluation; policy translation; international experiences; and relevant case studies. All modules are instructed by professors and experts with profound theoretical and practical experiences at KLHTA/WHOCC.

At the stage of robust HTA development in China, the HTA MOOC will improve the education and promotion of HTA theories and methods, deepen and strengthen the implementation of HTA, increase the impact of China's HTA research domestically and internationally, translate HTA research to policies, and play its due role in protecting the public health.

KLHTA/WHOCC JOINS HTASIALINK

KLHTA/WHOCC was inducted into HTAsiaLink, a network that supports collaboration between Asian HTA agencies. It focuses on facilitating HTA research by accelerating information and resource sharing and developing efficient HTA methodology in Asia.

HTAsiaLink was established in Seoul, Republic of Korea in January 2011 by three founding member agencies, i.e., the National Evidence-based healthcare Collaborating Agency of the Republic of Korea, the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program of Thailand, and the Center for Drug Evaluation of Chinese Taipei.

HTAsiaLink has more than 15 member agencies in the Western Pacific Region, 11 of which are in developing countries.



SHOWCASING CHINA'S HTA PROGRESS AND BUILDING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AT HTAI 2017

Faculty members and students from KLHTA/WHOCC conducted successful presentations of our HTA research findings at the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2017 Annual Meeting in Rome, Italy to the HTA global community. The delegates from KLHTA/WHOCC not only learned HTA experiences and methodologies from other countries but also created opportunities for improving China's HTA system and establishing potential collaboration.



Dr. Yingyao Chen presented findings on non-invasive prenatal testing at the panel discussion on genetic testing.

Three professors, one assistant professor, three doctoral students, and eight master's students at KLHTA/WHOCC attended the annual meeting, and our work on HTA was presented at four panel discussions, one workshop, six oral presentations, ten vignette presentations, and two poster presentations at the meeting. The HTA work we disseminated at the meeting included HTA research of various technologies, e.g., non-invasive prenatal test; the role of HTA in achieving universal health coverage (UHC); HTA development in China; hospital-based HTA; clinical pathway; patient engagement; and ethics.



Faculty and students from KLHTA/WHOCC participating in panel discussions and workshops and presenting research findings at HTAi 2017 in Rome.

HTAi is the global scientific and professional society for all those who produce, use, or encounter HTA. HTAi's Annual Meetings are key international gatherings for sharing latest research, advancing discussions in policy and methods, and building global networks. Over 1,200 scholars, policy makers, health care providers, patient representatives, and industry representatives from over 60 countries attended the HTAi 2017 Annual Meeting in June 2017.

THIRTEEN CHINESE JUNIOR RESEARCHERS AWARDED HTA SEED GRANT OF KLHTA/WHOCC

With the support of the China Medical Board and the Fudan University School of Public Health, KLHTA/WHOCC established a seed grant to fund HTA research projects of junior researchers in China. After a month-long open tender process, ten proposals were awarded the grant for two years. In addition, three researchers were selected to pair with KLHTA/WHOCC faculty members to conduct HTA research and receive regular tutoring. The 13 researchers are based in East, Central, and West China and Hong Kong, and they will research health technologies that pertain to cardiovascular disease, esophageal cancer, lung cancer, birth control, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and type 2 diabetes.



A recipient of the HTA seed grant presenting her preliminary findings at the 11th China HTA Forum.

11TH CHINA HTA FORUM FOCUSES ON INFORMING POLICY WITH PRECISION

The 11th China HTA Forum with the theme “Informing Policy with Precision” was successfully held on October 21-22, 2017 in Shanghai by the collaboration of KLHTA/WHOCC and the Health Economic Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Sun Yat-Sen University. Over 300 domestic and international policy makers, researchers, and technology developers attended the forum, representing the public sector, academia, research agencies, industry, hospitals, and nongovernmental organizations.

Officials at the National Health and Family Planning Commission and Shanghai Health and Family Planning Commission gave opening remarks to illustrate the increasing acknowledgement and use of HTA in health policy in China. We also invited renowned HTA leaders from Australia, Canada, China, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the US to present at four plenary sessions, 13 parallel sessions, and three workshops on which have been reported in the previous section.

One of the most informative and thought-provoking sessions was the plenary panel discussion on the role of HTA in decision making based on the case of thermal ablation for liver cancer. The panel consisted of representatives of researchers, industry, drug administration, health and family planning commission, health insurance, health providers, HTA, and patients. The representatives explained their standpoints and debated different how different values influenced the assessment and decision of adopting thermal ablation for liver cancer, which helped the audience gain deep understanding of HTA.

The parallel sessions covered market access and reimbursement; ethical evaluation; HTA in the health care system; precision medicine; HTA for emerging technology; policy translation; evidence-based medicine; big data construction and application in HTA; medical insurance; public health; HTA and decision making; hospital-based HTA; and value-based health care. In addition, 19 selected Chinese HTA researchers, most of who were young scholars, also presented at four oral presentation sessions.



KLHTA/WHOCC co-hosted the 11th China HTA Forum with the Health Economic Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sun Yat-Sen University in Shanghai.



Dr. Lizheng Shi leading the Advanced Economic Evaluation Workshop at the 11th China HTA Forum in Shanghai.



More than 300 participants from China and other countries at the 11th China HTA Forum in Shanghai in October 2017.



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